

1 What is claimed is:

2 1. A simulation process, comprising:

3 receiving a message from a system;

4 comparing the received message to information stored in a response file

5 used to simulate system response, the response file including at least one message, a

6 message marker associated with each message, at least one response associated with

7 each message, and an end-of-response marker associated with each response; and

8 simulating a response to the system message by outputting a response

9 stored in association with a stored message matching the received message, upon the

10 received message matching a message stored in the response file, wherein upon at least

11 two responses being stored in association with a message, the at least two responses are

12 sequentially output in response to sequential receipt of the message.

1 2. The simulation process of claim 1, wherein the simulation process

2 occurs within the system.

1 3. The simulation process of claim 1, wherein the simulation process

2 occurs within a device separate from, but operatively connected to the system.

1 4. The simulation process of claim 1, wherein the response file includes at

2 least one autonomous response, wherein the autonomous response is output a

3 predetermined time after simulation begins, irrespective of a received message.

1 5. The simulation process of claim 1, wherein the response file includes at

2 least one autonomous response, wherein the autonomous response is periodically output

3 irrespective of a received message.

1 6. The simulation process of claim 1, wherein the response file includes at

2 least two different messages, each associated with at least one response.

1 7. The simulation process of claim 1, further comprising:

2 storing a record of a received message, wherein upon a message being
3 received a second time, either a second response stored in association with the received
4 message is output, or the first response is again output if no second response is stored in
5 association with the received message.

1 8. The simulation process of claim 7, wherein sequential responses stored
2 in the response file in association with a common message are sequentially output upon
3 successive receipt of the common message.

1 9. The simulation process of claim 1, wherein sequential responses stored
2 in the response file in association with a common message are sequentially output upon
3 successive receipt of the common message.

1 10. The simulation process of claim 1, wherein the response file is created
2 using a log file of the system.

1 11. A simulator, comprising:
2 a memory, adapted to store a response file, the response file being used
3 to simulate system response and including at least one message, a message marker
4 associated with each message, at least one response associated with each message, and
5 an end-of-response marker associated with each response;

6 a comparator, adapted to compare a message received from a system to
7 information stored in the response file to determine whether or not the received message
8 matches a message stored in the response file; and

9 an output device adapted to simulate a response to the system message,
10 upon determining that a received message matches a message stored in the response
11 file, by outputting a response stored in association with the matching stored message,
12 wherein upon at least two responses being stored in association with a message, the at

13 least two responses are sequentially output in response to sequential receipt of the
14 message.

1 12. The simulator of claim 11, wherein the simulator is located within the
2 system.

1 13. The simulator of claim 11, wherein the simulator is separate from but
2 operatively connected to the system.

1 14. The simulator of claim 11, wherein the response file, stored in the
2 memory, includes at least one autonomous response, wherein the autonomous response
3 is output a predetermined time after simulation begins, irrespective of a received
4 message.

1 15. The simulator of claim 11, wherein the response file, stored in the
2 memory, includes at least one autonomous response which is periodically output,
3 irrespective of a received message.

1 16. The simulator of claim 11, wherein the response file, stored in the
2 memory, includes at least two different messages, each associated with at least one
3 response.

1 17. The simulator of claim 11, wherein the memory further stores a record
2 of a received message, wherein upon a message being received a second time, either a
3 second response stored in association with the received message is output, or the first
4 response is again output if no second response is stored in association with the received
5 message.

1 18. The simulator of claim 17, wherein sequential responses stored in the
2 response file in association with a common message are sequentially output upon
3 successive receipt of the common message, to simulate a response.

1 19. The simulator of claim 11, wherein sequential responses stored in the
2 response file in association with a common message are sequentially output upon
3 successive receipt of the common message, to simulate a response.

1 20. The simulator of claim 11, wherein the response file is created using a
2 log file of the system.

1 21. An article of manufacture for use in conjunction with a computer,
2 comprising:

3 a first computer readable code segment for causing a computer to
4 compare a message received from a system to information stored in a response file used
5 to simulate system response, the response file including at least one message, a message
6 marker associated with each message, at least one response associated with each
7 message, and an end-of-response marker associated with each response; and

8 a second computer readable code segment for causing a computer to
9 simulate a response to the system message by outputting a response stored in
10 association with a stored message matching the received message, upon the received
11 message matching a message stored in the response file, wherein upon at least two
12 responses being stored in association with a message, the at least two responses are
13 sequentially output in response to sequential receipt of the message.

1 22. The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the article of
2 manufacture is for use in conjunction with a computer of the system.

1 23. The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the article of
2 manufacture is for use in conjunction with a computer separate from, but operatively
3 connected to the system.

1 24. The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the response file
2 includes at least one autonomous response, wherein the second computer readable code

3 segment causes the computer to output the autonomous response a predetermined time
4 after simulation begins, irrespective of a received message.

1 25. The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the response file
2 includes at least one autonomous response, wherein the second computer readable code
3 segment causes the computer to output the autonomous response periodically,
4 irrespective of the received message.

1 26. The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the response file
2 includes at least two different messages, each associated with at least one response.

1 27. The article of manufacture of claim 21, further comprising:
2 a third computer readable code segment for causing the computer to
3 store a record of a received message, wherein upon a message being received a second
4 time, either a second response stored in association with the received message is output,
5 or the first response is again output if no second response is stored in association with
6 the received message.

1 28. The article of manufacture of claim 27 wherein sequential responses
2 stored in the response file in association with a common message are sequentially
3 output upon successive receipt of the common message.

1 29. The article of manufacture of claim 21 wherein sequential responses
2 stored in the response file in association with a common message are sequentially
3 output upon successive receipt of the common message.

1 30. The article of manufacture of claim 21 wherein the response file is
2 created using a log file of the system.